

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows (Note that Applicant is using the newly permitted amendment format as posted via the pre-O.G. notice on January 31, 2003 at <http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/dapp/opla/preognotice/revamdtpac.htm>))

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1. (Original) An ink fountain apparatus for a rotary printing press, comprising:
a rotatably supported ink fountain roller; an ink fountain comprised of a bottom plate with one end supported close to said ink fountain roller and a pair of ink dams standing upright from said bottom plate to correspond to two ends of said ink fountain roller and arranged to oppose in an axial direction of said ink fountain roller;
at least one intermediate ink dam standing upright between said ink dams from said bottom plate, said intermediate ink dam including a first member in contact opposite to an outer surface of said ink fountain roller and said bottom plate, a second member in contact opposite to said first member, and a third member in contact opposite to said second member; press means for pressing said first member through said third and second members toward the outer surface of said ink fountain roller and toward said bottom plate;
and an adjustment tool for adjusting a tight contact state of said first member with respect to at least one of the outer surface of said ink fountain roller and said bottom plate.
 2. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first member is made of a wear-resistant elastic material.
 3. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
said first member is a plate-like member arranged in a direction perpendicular to the axial direction of said ink fountain roller and with one end faces that press the outer surface of said ink fountain roller and said bottom plate,
said third member is a plate-like member arranged in a direction perpendicular to the axial direction of said ink fountain roller and with one end face that presses said second member by press operation of said press means, and

said second member is a thin plate-like member arranged between the other end face of said first member and one end face of said third member.

4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the thin plate-like member serving as said second member is made of a thin steel plate with spring properties.
5. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said adjustment tool adjusts said first member substantially in a direction toward a position where the outer surface of said ink fountain roller and said bottom plate oppose each other.
6. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an ink fountain key supported by a lower surface of the bottom plate and with a distal end projecting toward said ink fountain roller closer than a distal end of said bottom plate, and a projection projecting from a press surface of said first member and in contact with an upper face of the projecting distal end of said fountain key.
7. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said third member has an engaging surface formed of a slant surface, and said press means comprises an operation rod biased in a direction to become close to said ink fountain roller and with a distal end engageable with the engaging surface.

Claim 8 (Cancelled)

9. (Original) An ink fountain apparatus for a rotary printing press, comprising a rotatably supported ink fountain roller, said ink fountain apparatus comprised of a bottom plate arranged at a position close to said ink fountain roller and a pair of ink dams arranged substantially perpendicular to said bottom plate and opposing each other in a widthwise direction of said bottom plate, and an intermediate ink dam arranged between said pair of ink dams, said apparatus comprising a press member which is supported movably, which moves in one direction to press said intermediate ink dam toward an outer surface of said ink fountain roller and

toward said bottom plate, and which moves in the other direction to disengage from said intermediate ink dam, thereby allowing removal of said intermediate ink dam.

10. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising a support formed integrally with said intermediate ink dam and having an engaging surface,
a holder for supporting said support to be movable in a direction to become close to and away from said ink fountain roller, and
an operating portion formed integrally with said press member and adapted to release a distal end of said press member from the engaging surface against a biasing force.

11. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising a support bar for supporting said holder to be movable in an axial direction of said ink fountain roller, and
a fixing mechanism for fixing/releasing said holder to/from said support bar.

Claim 12 (Cancelled)

13. (Newly Added) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said adjustment tool comprises a first adjustment bolt (34b) moving substantially in a direction toward a position where the outer surface of ink fountain roller and said bottom plate are opposed to each other.

14. (Newly Added) An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said adjustment tool further comprises a second adjustment bolt (34a) moving in a direction toward the periphery of said ink fountain roller and a third adjustment bolt (34c) moving in a direction toward said bottom plate.

15. (Newly Added) An ink fountain apparatus for a rotary printing press, comprising:

a rotatably supported ink fountain roller; an ink fountain comprised of a bottom plate with one end supported close to said ink fountain roller and a pair of ink dams standing upright from said bottom plate to correspond to two ends of said ink fountain roller and arranged to oppose in an axial direction of said ink fountain roller;

Docket No.: 96790P307
Serial No.: 09/472,392

- 5 -

SL/mor

at least one intermediate ink dam standing upright between said ink dams from said bottom plate, said intermediate ink dam including a first member in contact opposite to an outer surface of said ink fountain roller and said bottom plate, a second member in contact opposite to said first member, and a third member in contact opposite to said second member;

press means for pressing said first member through said third and second members toward the outer surface of said ink fountain roller and toward said bottom plate, wherein said press means comprises

a holder with a first through hole and adapted to support said intermediate ink dam to be movable in a direction to become close to and away from said ink fountain roller,

a rod press member supported in the first through hole to be movable in a moving direction of said intermediate ink dam and with a distal end projecting from one end of the first through hole to abut against said third member, said press member having a spring accepting portion,

a screw with a second through hole in which said press member extends and threadably engageable with the other end of the first through hole, and

a spring mounted between the spring accepting portion and said screw and adapted to bias the distal end of said press member to press said third member, said spring having a biasing force adjusted by pivot motion of said screw;

and an adjustment tool for adjusting a tight contact state of said first member with respect to at least one of the outer surface of said ink fountain roller and said bottom plate.

16. (Newly Added) An ink fountain apparatus for a rotary printing press, comprising a rotatably supported ink fountain roller, said ink fountain apparatus comprised of a bottom plate arranged at a position close to said ink fountain roller and a pair of ink dams arranged substantially perpendicular to said bottom plate and opposing each other in a widthwise direction of said bottom plate, and an intermediate ink dam arranged between said pair of ink dams, said apparatus comprising

a press member which is supported movably, which moves in one direction to press said intermediate ink dam toward an outer surface of said ink fountain roller and

toward said bottom plate, and which moves in the other direction to disengage from said intermediate ink dam, thereby allowing removal of said intermediate ink dam;

a holder with a first through hole and adapted to support said intermediate ink dam to be movable in a direction to become close to and away from said ink fountain roller,

a spring accepting portion fixed to said press member,

a screw with a second through hole in which said press member supported in the first through hole to be movable in the moving direction of said intermediate ink dam extends, said screw being threadably engageable with the other end of the first through hole, and

a spring mounted between said spring accepting portion and said screw and adapted to bias a distal end of said press member projecting from one end of the first through hole so as to press said intermediate ink dam,

said spring having a biasing force adjusted by pivot motion of said screw.

Docket No.: 96790P307
Serial No.: 09/472,392

- 7 -

SL/mor